

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of introducing a substance into plant tissue of a plant having branches, the method comprising:

removing branch tissue to expose conductive tissue of a branch;

contacting the exposed conductive tissue of the branch with the substance; and

wherein increasing an amount of the substance that is absorbed through the conductive tissue of the branch while by inhibiting means is being carried out in order to inhibit transpiration through a leaf on the branch or to inhibit water requirement by the leaf, such that a driving force of transpiration provides a flow of the substance into the conductive tissue.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is removal of at least one of the leaves.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is shading of at least one of the leaves.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is closure of stomata of the leaves.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the closure is accomplished by introducing into the tissue of the leaves, a chemical which closes the stomata.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the conductive tissue consists of vessels.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is a dicotyledonous plant.